

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

No.

: 10/019,715

Confirmation No. 1024

Applicant

: Gerard M. Vanacker et al.

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Examiner

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Sir:

On March 15, 2002, the above-captioned patent application was filed at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As yet, Applicants have not received an official action on the merits.

The Commissioner is hereby requested to advise the undersigned attorney when such action can be expected to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on April 23, 2004.